

THE COAX NEWSLETTER



April 2024

P O Box 792, Ponderay, ID 83852-0792

www.K7JEP.org

BCARC73@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/bcarck7jep/

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Help Wanted!

Looking to become more involved in the Club but not quite ready to run for a Board position? We have several opportunities for you to help us. Please check out our new **Help Wanted** section on page 3.



Feeling Lucky?

Don't forget our monthly 50/50 fundraising raffle at each meeting. For \$1 per ticket, you have a chance to win 50% of the pot, with the other 50% going to help support Club activities. Last month's pot was an amazing \$84! The more you buy, the more you could win!



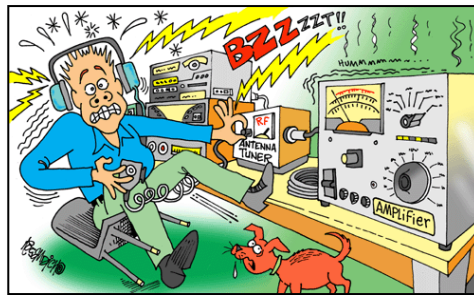
APRIL MEETING PRESENTATION

Operating Position Implementation for Ease of Use & Virtual Shack Tour

Presented by John Kludt, K7SYS, BCARC Activities Manager

We all probably spend a lot of time at the operating positions of our amateur radio stations. The layout of the operating position can positively or negatively influence the enjoyment we get from running our radios. We are not talking about the layout of a multi-operator contest station, rather we will be discussing the things you can do to make operating your radio a little less fatiguing and maybe a little more fun for the average operator. How is the lighting? Can you easily reach everything? How hard is it to switch antennas? How about that chair in which you are spending hours sitting? They call it "wireless" but how hard is it to get to those wires *behind* the radios and accessories?

We will be sharing with each other things that have worked and maybe a few things that haven't worked so well. In doing this, we will be traveling via pictures to each other's operating positions for some "show and tell." Please join us for a presentation of ideas for typical ham shacks. Hopefully, you can pick up some ideas that will improve the layout of your own operating position from the standpoint of ease of operation and enjoyment.



We hope to see you either in person or via Zoom the 2nd Wednesday in April.

NEXT MEETING

April 10, 2024

(2nd Wednesday of the Month)

~

Board Meeting

5:00 PM

Eyeball QSOs

6:00 PM

General Meeting

6:30 PM

~

Location

VFW HALL

1325 Pine Street

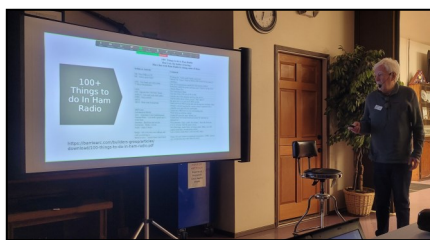
Corner of Pine &

Division

Sandpoint, ID

March Monthly Meeting

Who needs March Madness when you've got *HAM Goals!* At our last monthly meeting, we discussed the importance of having amateur radio goals to keep things alive and interesting. Our Activities Manager, John Kludt, *K7SYS*, started by sharing some of his goals and how they have evolved over the



years. From getting his Novice in 1962 to working 100 grids on Satellite, John has found that there is always something new to learn. Several attendees also jumped in and shared their goals, with some never even imagining becoming a HAM operator! So whether it is Working All States, a Triple Play or the DX Century Club Award, having goals keeps it fun and fresh! Attendees also heard updates on several upcoming Club activities including the Pico Balloon launch, Transmitter Hunt and a POTA Summer Picnic.



This and past presentations can be found on the club website at K7JEP.org.

My DX Adventure....by Ken Conradi, *KF7FDN*

At the last Club meeting in March, we discussed the importance of setting goals. Here is the brief story of achieving my goal of the DX Century Club (DXCC) Award. It wasn't really a goal I had put much thought into, but rather kind of fell in my lap after getting my General License and getting on the HF Bands. Not long after going through the pain of getting my radio and WSJT-X/FT8 set up and running, I was watching the Band Activity and noticed Crozet Island calling CQ, I was very surprised when I actually made a contact with the Crozet DXpedition and got it in my logbook – I was hooked! (BTW, Crozet is the 3rd most sought after DX entity). Eleven thousand miles with my little end fed antenna still amazes me!



Since then, I've been all over the world with the same setup. In addition to learning a lot about radio and propagation, I have also learned a lot of geography. The companion software I use is called Grid Tracker. It has many features and the one I like best is a robust mapping function. For each of my contacts, I always look at their QRZ Bio and will check on the map exactly where they are located. A lot of the DX contacts are in places



I've never heard of; tiny countries on all continents, islands in the S Pacific, the Caribbean, the Mediterranean.... For the really cool and mysterious places, I will further search and learn their story. This is almost as fun as the radio part!!

DX'ing is like fly fishing – sometimes you're the fish and sometimes you're the fisher, and you often don't catch anything. Patience and perseverance are a must!

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

March 2024

TOTAL	52
EXTRA	11
GENERAL	27
TECH	14

CLUB MEMBERSHIP

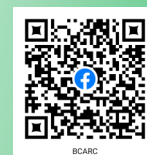
\$25 Individual
\$35 Family *

* includes all licensed family members living in the same household

To join, please remit with a [membership form](#) at the next meeting or send to:

BCARC
PO Box 792
Ponderay, ID
83852-0792

FOR THE LATEST CLUB INFO, CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK!



www.facebook.com/bcarck7jep/



Wanting to get more involved with the Club? BCARC is looking for some additional help in several areas. If you are interested, please contact John Ailport, john.ailport13@comcast.net.



Treasurer-In-Training

We are looking to train an individual to assist the current Treasurer with managing the Club's financial activities. General responsibilities include keeping records of the Club's finances, membership, and equipment assets; compiling a summary report of Club finances for the monthly Board meeting and/or an itemized statement of disbursements and receipts; accepting and recording applications for membership and renewals to the Club and maintain a current list of members. The Treasurer is also be responsible for making such tax and corporate reports as may be required of the Club by state and federal laws. The role requires a working knowledge of Microsoft Office, in particular MS Excel.

Meeting Greeter - 50/50 Manager

We are looking to have a designated Greeter to welcome attendees at our monthly meetings during the hours of 6:00 - 6:30 at the VFW Hall. This person will be responsible for greeting people as they come in, making sure they sign the attendance roster and encouraging participation in the 50/50 raffle. They will also manage the sale of tickets, close raffle ticket sales at 6:30, count receipts so that by the end of the meeting we know how much we took in and what the 50/50 split looks like in dollars. The person will be responsible for distributing the cash to the winner and to the Treasurer as required. This position can be multiple, rotating individuals.

Zoom Production Assistants (2)

We are looking for (2) Zoom Production Assistants to help with set up and running of Zoom at our monthly meetings. Responsibilities include setting up the 2 laptops (1 for the presentation and 1 for Zoom management), audio components (microphones, mixer/sound board, wireless mic system), video components (camera, projector and screen). Assistant should be available ~1 hr before the meeting for set up and stay after for breakdown. Assistant will also manage the Zoom meeting and attendee entry queue. Training will be provided.

COAX Writers & Contributors

Do you have a goal or achievement you'd like to share? Do you have special expertise in a particular area like Antennas, DIY projects, operating off-grid, working Digital or other Radio topics? Or do you just have a fun and interesting Radio story you'd like to share with the group? Likewise, if you're a reporter type, maybe you'd like to cover one of the Club events like the July 4th parade, Bridge Swim or Prep Expo. If the answer is yes to any of the above, please let Colleen, KK7KNL, know and she will work with you on getting your topic in our Club

BCARC BREAKFAST

April 27, 2024

9-10:30am

Location

Connies Café
323 Cedar St
Sandpoint, ID



UPCOMING EVENTS

BCARC often participates in and supports local events.

2024 Events:

- ◆ Sandpoint 4th of July Parade
- ◆ Long Bridge Swim
- ◆ Emergency Preparedness Expo

For more information, check out the Club calendar on our website by clicking the icon below.



CONTESTS, NETS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

2024 Field Day - Join the Team!

The 2024 ARRL Field Day is being held the weekend of **June 22nd and 23rd**. Under the new call sign of K7B, we will be partnering with BCARES as a 2A station setup with one SSB and one FT8/FT4/CW transmitter, along with Satellite and 6m at a location in Oldtown. We will be starting an operator sign-up sheet soon for members to sign up for modes and shifts - make sure to check back!

But it takes a team to pull this off. Please consider joining our planning team—we are looking for help in all areas. If you are interested, contact Jim Morford at jimmorford.jm@gmail.com.

The Idaho QSO Party Spud Run - How did we do?!!

Well, we'll have to wait a little longer for the results to be official, but so far BCARC (K7D) and individual BCARC members did pretty well. QSO counts are totally over 1,000 and K7D has over 187,000 points....not bad given the somewhat miserable conditions! Stay tuned.



Kamiah Hamfest & Radio Raffle - April 20

The Clearwater ARC and 3Rivers ARC will be holding their annual Kamiah Hamfest & Radio Raffle at the American Legion Hall, 618 Main St. Kamiah, ID. The raffle is for a Yaesu FT-991a and a Yaesu FT-2980R. If you would like to purchase raffle tickets, they are \$5 each or 5 for \$20. Please bring cash to the April BCARC meeting.

More info: <https://www.arrl.org/hamfests/kamiah-ham-fest>

Rookie Roundup - SSB - April 21

To encourage newly-licensed operators (“Rookies”) in North America (including territories and possessions) to operate on the HF bands and experience competitive Amateur Radio operating. Experienced operators (“Non-Rookies”) are strongly encouraged to participate and help new operators – either on the air or in person. Rookies exchange information with as many other stations as possible on the 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter HF bands. <https://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>

VE Testing - May 11

This is your next local opportunity to sit for the Technician, General or Amateur Extra License Exam. Provided free of charge by our local BCARES group. Testing begins at 10:00am at The Library—Sandpoint Branch. <https://bonnerares.org/wp/license-exams/>

HF Activity Group - Daily

Have you ever struggled to determine your stations propagation? The HF Activity Group is open to anyone and its sole purpose is to check out your stations propagation. Simply give your call sign at the beginning and wait to be called upon, make your CQ call and then listen as to where you are being heard.

Daily Schedule:

- 17M** on 18.157.5 MHz at 1730 - 1830z
- 15M** on 21.383 MHz at 1830z
- 12M** on 24.970 MHz at 1915z
- 10M** on 28.570 MHz (when time/band allows)

More information on contesting can be found on <http://arrl.org/contest-calendar> and <https://contestcalendar.com/>.

BCARC NETS



K7JEP HooDoo Mtn VHF Repeater / North Idaho Repeater Group Net

145.490 MHz
(-0.6 MHz offset,
136.5 tone)
Sunday at 7pm



Simplex Net

145.600MHz Simplex

Sunday -
immediately
following the
Repeater Net



X-X Panhandlers - 10M Net

28.460 MHz
Sunday at 2pm



*The COAX is edited and
published by
[Colleen Conradi, KK7KNL](#)*